



MONEY FIGHT

Chapter Thirty-Seven: Premonitions of a New Age

MIX UP

TACUDALL



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JAPAN'S
BOXING
WORLD HAS
ENTERED AN
UNPREC-
EDENTED
DARK AGE.

LESS THAN
A MONTH
REMAINING ON
THE FORDS
BOUT OF
THEIR BOXING
FIGHT!

WITH 21 CONSECU-
TIVE WORLD TITLE
LOSSES, IT HAS BEEN
OVER 5 YEARS SINCE
JAPAN HAS PRO-
DUCED A WORLD
CHAMPION.

HOWEVER, THE
TWIN COMETS
GRACING THE
NIGHT SKY, TWO
BROTHERS HAVE
BET THE SCENE.

IT'S THE
TRIUMPH
OVER
SHADOW-
BOXING
WORLD
TITLE
BOUT!

MAKING
EVEN MORE
EVENING, I THINK IT'S
SAFE TO SAY
KANOVA ARE
THE ONE IN
THE RING!

KENO!

THIRTY
SECONDS
ON THE
CLOCK!
WRECK
'EM!

KENO!

SLAM

TRAINER
KENJIRO KANAYA
KANAYA BROTHERS' FATHER

THE WALL
OF SWORDS
PUSHES
SUHAN
TO THE
ROPE!

THERE
IT IS!
KANAYA'S
THIRTY
SECOND
FISTSAYER,
ARROW
RAIN!

GOT IT,
POPS.

JAPAN'S BRIDGE
SCENE WAS ON
THE VERGE OF A
RENAISSANCE.

HAVING GOTTEN
THROUGH THE
GAMES BY BREAK-
ING SPEED SINCE
THE KANAYA
BROTHERS' DEBUT,
BOTH CLAIMING A
WORLD TITLE...

THE CHAL-
LENGER
AND HIS
HANDS FULL
DEPEND-
ING! HE
CAN'T GET
A HIT IN!

WORLDWIDE CHAMPION

KEND KANAYA
THE KING

THE SITUATION IS SO DIRE THAT EVEN WORLD TITLE MATCHES HAVE BEEN RELEGATED TO LATE NIGHT TV SLOTS.

THE INDUSTRY FAILED TO BRING IN NEW CUSTOMERS AND EVENTUALLY SHRUNK AS A WHOLE.

ALONG WITH FALLING BIRTHRATES, THE NUMBER OF PRO BOXERS IN JAPAN HAS DROPPED SIGNIFICANTLY.

THE DECLINE IN JAPAN'S BOXING INDUSTRY WOULD ONLY DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF A CHAMPION.



アルノール

Sept. 1990

THUMP



THE EAST JAPAN BOXING ASSOCIATION COULD BARELY COVER TOGETHER A BUDGET

THAT WAS WHEN KANAKA CAME TO KYOTO IN ORDER TO ESTABLISH A NEW GYM





THINK OF IT
AS A LITTLE
DONATION.



IN THIS
CASE,

JUST A TOKEN OF
FRIENDSHIP, MR.
EXECUTIVE. WE'LL
BE SERVING A LOT
OF EACH OTHER
FROM NOW ON.



HOWEVER,
YOU WERE
THE ONES
WHO WERE
USED IN
THE END.



YEA. BY THE
TIME WE
REALIZED,
IT WAS
ALREADY
TOO LATE.



BUT THEIR
POPULARITY
AND ABILITY
TO BRING IN
CUSTOMERS
WAS TOO
ENTICING.

I REFUSED
AT FIRST, OF
COURSE. THERE
WERE MANY WHO
DIDN'T HAVE A
GOOD OPINION
ABOUT THE
KAWAYAS.

THE TRUTH
IS I WANTED
TO USE THEM
IN ORDER TO
JUMP-START
JAPANESE PRO
BOXING
INDUSTRY
AS A WHOLE.



SAMMY
STILL
CAN'T
SEEM TO
FIND AN
OPENING!

TWENTY
SECONDS
REMAIN-
ING! WILL
KANAYA
GET A
DOWN ON
SAMMY?

THEY'D MORE
OR LESS TAKEN
THE INDUSTRY
HOSTAGE.



I'M SICK
OF THIS
GARBAGE!

PULL
IT TO-
GETHER
SAMMY!

HE'S JUST
TRYING TO
RACK UP
POINTS!



MISSION
COMPLETE!



TEN SECONDS
LEFT, BOO!

WES GIFFE (ARTIST) / NIGHTMARE (WRITER)

DAVID KANAYA
THE PRINCE



AW, RIGHT!
THAT'S A
HEAD!



HE TOOK
A SUR-
PRISE
COUNTER
ON THE
WINDUP!

OHHHH!
A HARD
LEFT
FROM
SAMAN
DROPS
KENO
KANAYAI!

A man with dark hair and a black shirt is shouting with his mouth wide open. A woman with blonde hair is looking at him with a concerned expression. In the background, other people are visible, some looking towards the man. A large, stylized sound effect 'BAM' is written in the bottom right corner.

ARE YOU
BLIND?!
THAT WAS
A SLIP!

A large crowd of people is shown from a high angle, looking down at a person on the ground. Many people have speech bubbles or sound effects above them, indicating a chaotic scene. The scene is set outdoors with some structures in the background.

AKINO
SLEPPED
DUE TO
SWEAT
ON THE
MAT?

HA-HA! MIS-
TAKEN! IT
SEEMS THAT
WAS NOT A
DROWN, BUT
A SLIP!

A man in a white shirt and a dark bow tie is shown in a dynamic pose, as if he has just slipped or is about to. He has a surprised expression on his face. A large, stylized sound effect 'SLIP!' is written next to him.

SLIP!

YOU'VE
GOTTA BE
KIDDING,
RIGHT?

THAT
WAS A
DROWN!

Three people are shown from the chest up, looking surprised or concerned. A man in a dark shirt is on the left, a woman in a light-colored shirt is in the middle, and a man in a dark shirt is on the right. They are all looking towards the right side of the frame.

A SLIP!



I GUESS KENO KANRYA'S ON HIS WAY OUT.

HE EVEN GOT KNOCKED ON HIS ASS.

TBS TV SPORTS PRODUCER
MASAMUNE KIBA



THAT'S ALL RIGHT.
I WAS DECEASED
AS CHAIRMAN OF
THE ASSOCIATION
AND MORE OR LESS
OSTRACIZED,
ANYWAY.

REST ASSURED,
YOUR IDENTITY
WILL BE KEPT
ANONYMOUS IN
THE ARTICLE.

THANK YOU
FOR TAKING
TIME OUT OF
YOUR SCHEDULE
TO SPEAK
WITH ME.



OHARA-
SAN...

PLEASE
GIVE ME
A CALL IF
YOU NEED
ANYTHING.



KENO
DEFENDS
HIS TITLE
FOR THE
FIFTH TIME.
VICTORY BY
DECISION.



NO. I HAVE
A FEELING
THE FUTURE
ISN'T AS
GRIM AS
YOU MIGHT
THINK.



DO YOU THINK
THIS SPELLS
THE END FOR
BOXING IN
JAPAN?



...IS BEING
BLOWN INTO
JAPANESE
BOXING

IF ANY-
THING, I'D
SAY NEW
LIFE...

WE'VE ONLY
REACHED
THE SEMI-
FINALS, YET
THE STAIRS
ARE ELECTRIC
WITH ALL THE
ENERGY OF A
TITLE MATCH!

LET'S
GET IT
ON!

WE KICK
OFF THE
"SUBSIVE
ONE ROUND
FOR THREE
MILLION
YEN" PRIZE
MATCH.

WHO IS
BRAVE
ENOUGH
TO CHAL-
LENGE THE
BEAST
OUT...

NICKNAMED
"MONSTER,"
NO ONE HAS
BEEN ABLE TO
LAST THREE
MINUTES
AGAINST
THIS MAN'S
FEROCITY!

EDWIN BAEZ,
12-0, WINNING
EACH OF HIS
MATCHES BY
KO IN THE
FIRST ROUND!

HE TOOK THE
NATIONAL
ROOKIE TITLE
LAST YEAR AND
IS CURRENTLY
RANKED 11TH
IN JAPAN'S
BANTAMWEIGHT
DIVISION.

IT'S BEEN TWO
YEARS SINCE
HE RETAINED
SUPREMACY IN
THE LIFE OR
DEATH WORLD
OF UNDER-
GROUND
BOXING!

SHOTARO
MITSURAI!

SINCE HIS
MOVE TO THE
PRO LEAGUE,
HE'S MAIN-
TAINED A
STUNNING UN-
DEFEATED ALL
KNOCKOUT
RECORD!

A

H

H

A

A



WHAT DO YOU
MEAN BRAVER?
I DIDN'T WANT
TO FIGHT THIS
MONSTER.

ME TARAI!
DON'T FIGHT
AT BABE'S
RANGE! USE
THE RING!



YOU CAN
DO IT!
MAYBE!

HOLD OUT
FOR ONE
ROUND AND
BAG THAT
THREE
MILLION!



DAMN IT!
EASY FOR
YOU TO
SAY!





TACHIBANA GYM SECOND
KOHANA TACHIBANA
(AGE 18)



DIDN'T HE
FEEL ANY-
THING FROM
THAT KNOCK
DOWN? THIS
IS AN IN-
CREDIBLY
DANGEROUS
DEVELOP-
MENT!

AND METE-
ORAT TAKES
CENTER
RING TO
MEET BAEZ
IN A RING!

WH-
WHAT?

KOHANA!

NICE
ADVICE!

THIS IS A
BATTLE OF
ENDURANCE!

BAEZ'S PUNCHES
ARE HARD AND A
HEAVY, BUT THAT
DON'T GET ENOUGH
TO ROCK MY CON-
SCIOUSNESS.

A HARD
RIGHT
HOOK
FROM
BAEZ!

BOOM

I JUST HAVE
TO TEAR HIM
DOWN BEFORE
HE GETS ME!



NRH!

WHAP



GAHH!

WHAP
WHAP
WHAP

MITARAI
SAUCK
IN A
BODY
BLOW!

OH! IT'S
A DRAW!



WHACK

BOOM

AND AN-
OTHER
DRAW!



THAT'S A
SECOND
DOWN
FOR MI-
TARAI!



HOWEVER,
IT SEEMS
MITARAI
TOOK THE
BRUNT
OF THE
DAMAGE!



BAE
SLOWLY
RISES
TO HIS
FEET...



BAE IS
DOWN AS
WELL!

A POUND
KNOCK
DOWN!
YOU DON'T
SEE THIS
OFTEN,
FOLKS!

BART IS MOVING
LIKE A
BARTON-
ETTE WITH
SWEVED
STRIKES!

ANNY LOOKS
LIKE BART
FELL THAT,
AFTER ALL
HE'S HAVING
TROUBLE
STANDING!



SLUM TO!



Que?!

WHAT?



OR...

WILL BART
BE THE
LAST ONE
STANDING?

THE TEMPLE
BLOW ROCKED
HIS BODILY!

One page?
Bart!



REYARD
WAS NOT
FOOTY
HARD

GET UP,
SHOTARO?





HE'S DONE
IT! WINNER,
SAGATARO
MITARAI!

NOT ONLY DID
HE LAST ONE
ROUND, BUT HE
MANAGED TO
DISMANTLE
WORLD RANKER
EDWIN BAZZ!

MI-
TA-
RAI!



HE'S
GONNA
HAVE A
HARD TIME
FINDING
OPPONENTS
AT THIS
RATE!

YET
ANOTHER
RIVETING
KNOCKOUT
BY
MITARAI!

MI-
TA-
RAI!

MI-
TA-
RAI!



WHAT?!

TBS TV



LOOKING AT
THE TURNOUT
OF THE MATCH
THE OTHER DAY,
THERE'S NO WAY
WE'LL PULL IN
ENOUGH ATTEN-
DERS TO FILL
AN ARENA.

YOU'RE
TELLIN' ME
WE CAN'T
HOLD THE
KANAYA
END OF THE
YEAR FES-
TIVAL?



WE'RE IN THE
MIDDLE OF
NEGOTIATIONS
WITH FORMER
CHARPTON
ALEXANDER
SANDER.

DON'T YOU
WORRY 'BOUT
A THING. WE
HAVE A BIG
MATCH LINEP
UP FOR THE
END OF THE
YEAR.



WHAT DO YOU
THINK OF THE
SITUATION,
KANAYA-SANT?

THE RATINGS
HAVE BEEN
DROPPING
LIKE A ROCK
RECENTLY
AS WELL.

WANT TO KNOW
WHY YOU'VE PULLED
IN NUMBERS UNTIL
NOW? BECAUSE
EVERYONE WANTS
TO SEE KENO
AND DADO GET
TRAMPLED.

YOU'RE
KICKASSER
THE MANTWA
YELLOW-
BELLES

THEY SAY
YOU FIGHT
ON WEAK
FIGHTERS,
BUT FLEE
FROM THE
STRONG.

KENYA-SAN,
DO YOU HAVE ANY
SPEA WHAT THE
PUBLIC THINKS
OF YOU AND
YOUR BROT?

WHAT'D
YOU SAY?
YOU TRYIN'
TO START
SOMETHIN,
JACKASS?

EVEN YOUR
BROTHER ARE
GETTING FED
UP WITH
YOUR CRAP.

YOU'VE FUGHT
NOTHING BUT
WASHED-UP OR
OTHERWISE
QUESTIONABLE
FIGHTERS AS
OF LATE.

I DO, HOW-
EVER, HAVE
A PROPOSAL.

THIS IN-
CLUDES THE
YEARLY CON-
TRACT WE'VE
HAP UNTIL
NOW.

ANYWAY,
KENYA-SAN
THE SECTION
HAD DECIDED
THAT SUCH
CLUB MUST
BE MADE.

YOU GOTTA BE
KICKIN' ME!
THE YEARLY'S
ALREADY
BOOKED,
DAMN IT!

WOW

AFTER DOMINATING THE UNDERGROUND BOXING SCENE AND TRANSITIONING TO THE PRO LEAGUE, HE'S TAKEN DOWN ONE WELL-KNOWN FIGHTER AFTER ANOTHER, EACH BY KNOCKOUT.

WOW

THOUGH WITH IT HE USED TO GO BY THE MONICKER 'BIG MONSTER' OR THAT HE WAS A FORMER NUT, BUT RIGHT NOW HE IS SAID TO BE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE TOP!

YOU KIDDING? THIS THERE'S ONLY GOT EIGHT FIGHTS UNDER HIS BELT! THE MBB WON'T ACKNOWLEDGE IT AS A TITLE MATCH!

JUST CALL IT A NON-TITLE OR EXHIBITION MATCH, THEN.

B-BUT...

SHOYARO MITARU, THE BOXER WHO DEFEATED BOTH WORLD RUMKED DASEE THE OTHER DAY.

WHAT SAY WE PIN HIM AS KINNY KENO-KINO?







I'M BEGGING YA!

CAN YOU LEND ME THREE MILLION YEN?



THE GYM TOOK MOST OF IT.



WHAT ABOUT THE PRIZE MONEY FROM THE MATCH THE OTHER DAY? I SAW IT ON TV!

HAH...? I DON'T WANT THAT KIND OF MONEY.



CATCH, AND I GAVE ALL THE MONEY I WAS HOLDING AT THE HOPPER TO YOU!

THAT MILLION AND ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN I GAVE YOU AT THE HOPPER TO YOU!

THE OTHER DAY AFTER LOSING TO A BOSS FOR THE LAST TIME, I DECIDED TO GIVE EVERYTHING I HAD TO YOU!

HAH...

STILL...

I MIGHT BE A PROFESSIONAL BOXER NOW, BUT I CAN HARDLY LIVE OFF OF IT UNLESS I REACH WORLD CHAMPION LEVEL.

I FINALLY REACHED THE POINT WHERE I CAN MAKE OVER TEN THOUSAND YEN PER FIGHT, AND EVEN THEN I ONLY BOOK A FIGHT ONCE EVERY THREE MONTHS OR SO.

| RANK | FIGHT MONEY PER FIGHT | NOTES |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
| WORLD TITLE | 100,000,000 - ONE HUNDRED MILLION | Only two boxers have ever won a world title fight. |
| JAPAN TITLE | 20,000,000 - 20 MILLION YEN | Only a few boxers have won a Japan title. |
| B-FIGHT (A RANK) | 1,000,000 | After losing, the fighter's first win brings a large prize. |
| B-FIGHT (B RANK) | 1,000,000 | Usually 10,000 yen after deductions. |
| A-FIGHT (C RANK) | 50,000 | Usually 10,000 yen after deductions. |

30% of the fight money is deducted for management.



BUT...



WHEN I
WATCHED THE
BROADCAST
AFTERWARD, I
THINK I OWE
THAT DECIDING
PUNCH TO MY
STOMACH PAIN
AT THE TIME.



HE HAS A LOT
OF NERVE
COMING
AROUND AND
ASKING ME
FOR MONEY.

I STILL HAVEN'T
FORGIVEN THIS
BASTARD FOR
KILLING ME THAT
LACHTIVE DAYS
BEFORE THE
BROADCAST
FINAL.

COME
ON, AN-
TARAI!



THANKS
A LOT,
ANTARAI!
I PROMISE
TO PAY YOU
BACK WITH
INTEREST!

NO MORE
GAMBLING,
ALL RIGHT?
TRY WORK-
ING FOR
REAL!



ALL RIGHT.
THIS IS
ALL I HAVE
ON ME.

WHAT'S DONE IS
DONE. TRYING
HARDER TO HAVE
SUFFERED
ENOUGH SINCE
THEN, TOO.



JUST PAY
ME BACK
SOMEDAY.



ARE YOU
SAYING
THAT YOU
WANT TO
FIGHT
AN ABB
MEMBER
TWO...

HOWEVER
ARE YOU
SAYING
YOU WANT
TO FIGHT
THIS TIME?



ATTEND
YOUR
NEXT OP-
PONENT...



YOU GOT
A FIGHT
OFFER!

YOU'RE
IN LUCK

SCORADA GYM TRAINED
TORAO KANOU



HUH?!



...IS THE BAN-
TAMWEIGHT
WORLD CHAM-
PION, KENO
KANRYA!

